

Steven Soriano  
U.S. EPA  
Waste Management Division

Steve

Re: your request of 3/4/87

*Andy*

3/4/87

Site:	<u>  C. 1000  </u>
Break:	<u>  12/2  </u>
Other:	<u>          </u>



SDMS DocID

265720

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

CONTACT: Deborah Younes

AUGUSTA, Maine, (DATE) .. The first phase of sampling for PCB contamination at the O'Connor scrap yard on Route 17 in Augusta has been completed and the preliminary data compiled and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

The sampling is part of the REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDY being conducted by E.C. Jordan Company of Portland under the leadership of Central Maine Power Company, as part of an agreement with the EPA and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. E.C. Jordan is conducting the scientific sampling to determine the extent and nature of possible hazardous materials on the site and surrounding areas.

No water contamination was found in off site wells and no contamination was detected in surface waters upstream or downstream in Riggs Brook which runs parallel to the site.

Two samples taken in wells established inside the fenced area of the site as part of the study detected some PCB contamination. However further sampling will be needed to pinpoint the cause and extent of this contamination.

The largest concentrations of PCB contamination were found to be in spots where actual transformer work was performed and in areas in close proximity to those spots. All but one of these areas are within the secured fenced area of the site. This one area has a temporary fence that will be replaced by a secured fence in the spring of 1987.

Some PCB readings were noted in biological samples taken from species on and off site. The concentrations of PCB's found in Bullheads, edible fish from Riggs Brook, were one third of the allowable limits set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

CMP will now present a proposal to the EPA and the DEP for the second phase of sampling of the site . This sampling will provide more detailed findings to assist in formulating a thorough and expedient clean-up of the site.

In the meantime, CMP will continue to keep area residents informed of sampling results and clean-up operations.

NOTE: Between 1952 and 1978 the F. O'Connor scrap yard received various wastes including electrical transformers from CMP, some of which contained oil contaminated with PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). PCBs are designated as hazardous by the EPA and require special handling and disposal procedures. The tanks that held the PCB contaminated oil were pumped dry, cleaned and removed from the O'Connor site in November of 1986 and sent to a federally approved disposal site.